THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) There is at present no concrete proposal to implement a Mid-day Meal Programme for elementary school children throughout the country.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Mathematics in Kendriya Vidyalayas and Government Schools

2575. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether study of mathematics has been made compulsory in Kendriya Vidyalayas and Government Schools in Delhi at Secondary level;

(b) if so, the details therefor;

(c) whether teaching of Mathematics is optional at Secondary level in some schools of Delhi;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government are aware that text of Mathematics is very difficult;

(f) whether Government are also aware that private tutors are charging as high as Rs. 600/- for coaching of Mathematics;

(g) whether Government propose to make study of Mathematics optional at Secondary level; and

(h) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The study of Mathematics is compulsory for all schools affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education, including Government Schools in Delhi and Kendriya Vidyalayas.

(c) and (d) It is not generally optional. However Patrachar Vidyalaya candidates are allowed to offer Home Science/Commerce in place of Mathematics. Likewise, Blind, Deaf and Dumb candidates also have the facility to offer an alternative subject in lieu of Mathematics in view of their special needs.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Government does not have any such data as private tution would be a matter of voluntary private contract.

(g) No, change is contemplated in the position stated in reply to parts (c) and (d) above.

(h) Mathematics is an important component of general education.

Health nutrition and educational inputs for children

2576. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the UNICEF report titled "State of the World's Children Report" recommending that Indian Government should provide basic health nutrition and educational inputs to the children; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government have been providing basic health nutrition and educational inputs to the children through various schemes. The existing major schemes are: Integrated Child Development Services, Wheat Based Nutrition Programme, Early Childhood Education, Creches for Working and Ailing Women, Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas, Balwadi Nutrition Programme, Scheme for the Welfare of Children in Need of Care and Protection, Maternal and Child Health Programme, Universal Immunization Programme and Prophylaxis Against Blindness due to Vitamin 'A' Deficiency amongst Children. A new scheme of Adolescent Girls has been launched during 1991-92 which focusses on school drop out adolescent girls in the age group of 11-18 Integrated Child Development Services Programme has been expanded by sanctioning 200 ICDS projects during 1990-92. In pursuance of the National Policy on Education, 1986 concerted efforts have been made to reach primary education to all children through a combination of formal schools system and non-formal education programme. Recently the 'Total Literacy Campaign' being taken in selected districts which also includes an Elementary Education Component.

Alternative Syllabus of Indian History

2577. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the B.J.P. ruled States have initiated a move to introduce an alternative syllabus of Indian history in schools;

(b) if so, what are the special features of the syllabus; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c) Certain Press reports regarding re-writing of text books in History in the States of Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh have come to the notice of the Central Government. On a reference to these State Governments, Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan have informed that they have no proposal to rewrite the history textbooks presently in use in their schools. Information from Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh is awaited and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

The Minister of Human Resource Development has addressed all Chief Ministers on 25-2-1992 to protect secular values and promote national integration through education.

UNICEF Report, 1992

2578. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governments attention has been drawn to a UNICEF Report 1992 according to which 60 to 70 children could be given primary education for the cost of training one university student and that best educated 10 per cent in India are getting 60 per cent of the expenditure on education;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether half of nation's children fail to finish primary education while more graduates are produced than can be employed; and

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto and what corrective steps Government propose to take to provide primary education to more children?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.